

HealthLink

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Social Work Licensing Legislation Enacted

Effective April 12, 2004, legislation was enacted which will change the regulation of social worker and certified social worker from registration to licensure. The titles of social worker and certified social worker will remain in effect until July 1, 2005. However, after July 1, 2005, a registered social worker will be called social worker or licensed bachelor's social worker. A certified social worker will be known as a licensed master's social worker.

Registrations for current social workers and certified social workers will automatically be transferred to a license effective July 1, 2005 without any action on the part of the licensee. A new document will be issued to licensees in July 2005 indicating the appropriate level of licensure. The current permanent ID number will remain the same.

Licensees whose registration has been expired for more than three years will need to meet the current educational, experiential and testing requirements for social worker licensure or social service technician registration.

The legislation requires a change from the current 2-year renewal cycle to a 3-year renewal cycle. After July 1, 2005, the

renewal fee will be \$75 (\$25 per year) and the license will be in effect for three years.

In addition to the changes in title, renewal cycle and renewal fee changes, anyone licensed at the bachelor's level (social worker) or master's level (certified social worker) must complete continuing education as a requirement for renewing their licenses under this legislation. The first licensees that will be impacted by the continuing education requirement are those licensees whose license expires in 2006. For example, for those licensees who are issued a license that is in effect from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2009, documentation of completion of continuing education courses acceptable to the Board of Social Work will be required when they renew in April 2009.

Currently, the Board of Social Work is in the process of developing rules to determine what courses or activities will be considered acceptable for continuing education. However, the law does specify a total of 45 clock hours, which is the equivalent of 45, 60-minute blocks of time.

The following are specific examples when an individual would be exempt from licensure:

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Update — Licensure Requirements for Respiratory Therapists

As we reported in our Spring 2004 issue, Public Act 3 of 2004 provides for the licensure of respiratory therapists in the State of Michigan. In accordance with the new law, a health care professional that is engaged in the practice of respiratory care and uses any of the following titles must be licensed:

- Respiratory Therapist
- Respiratory Care Practitioner
- Licensed Respiratory Therapist
- Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner
- R.T.
- R.C.P.
- L.R.T.
- L.R.C.P.

Respiratory therapists who are certified by the National Board for Respiratory Care will be able to apply for licensure under this new law. The application process is contained in the law but the application review procedures must be developed before licenses can be issued. We are also in the process of determining whether administrative rules are necessary to more precisely delineate the requirements for licensure.

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Therefore, although the effective date of the Act was July 1, 2004, the initial licensing process will not begin until the members of the Board of Respiratory Care have been appointed by the Governor and administrative rules have been developed if it is deemed necessary.

License fees will be \$75 per year plus a \$20 processing fee. Temporary license fees will also be \$75 per year along with the \$20 processing fee.

Please continue to check our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense for updates regarding respiratory therapist licensure. In the meantime, we have created a list of people who are interested in licensure information when it becomes available. If you are interested in being added to our list, you can either e-mail us at bhpinfo@michigan.gov or call our main line at (517) 335-0918 and leave your name and address in the applications mailbox.

■ MAPS Update

As we reported in our Summer 2003 issue of "HealthLink", the Michigan Automated Prescription Program (MAPS) became operational on January 1, 2003. Each month, over 1.2 million controlled substance prescriptions are reported to the MAPS with electronic data collection accounting for 99.8% of all controlled substance prescriptions.

The MAPS program is capable of providing patient reports upon request to practitioners who hold a controlled substance license. Those practitioners would include Dentists, Medical Doctors, Optometrists, Osteopathic Physicians, Pharmacists, Podiatrists and Veterinarians. Patient reports, however, should not be requested unless the patient acts in a manner that arouses suspicion. Excuses such as "losing a prescription" or the "medication was stolen" are examples of what may cause a practitioner to question the integrity of the patient.

Currently, the program is receiving approximately 170 requests daily from

physicians and pharmacists for patient reports. This is a marked increase from just one year ago when the program was receiving 100 requests on a daily basis. Based on survey responses received from practitioners who have ordered patient reports, most found the information useful, informative and of value.

The MAPS program is also capable of alerting prescribers when the program detects potential "doctor shoppers". We encourage practitioners to communicate with other physicians and pharmacists when patients are discovered visiting multiple physicians and pharmacies for the same type of medication, to determine the legitimacy of the patient's actions.

Finally, please remember that you are not required to report prescription data to the MAPS program until the 15th of the month following the month in which the controlled substance is dispensed to the patient. As a result, any requests for a MAPS report will not include data for the previous two to six weeks.

For additional information and access to forms, please go to our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense and click on the link to the MAPS program. If you have questions, you can either e-mail us at mapsinfo@michigan.gov or call us at (517) 373-1737.

■ EMS Licensing and the EMS Coordination Committee No Longer Housed in the Bureau of Health Professions

Effective July 1, 2004, the Emergency Medical Services personnel licensing function and the EMS Coordination Committee were transferred from the Bureau of Health Professions to the EMS and Trauma Systems Section in the Bureau of Health Policy, Planning and Access to Care. Both the Bureau of Health Professions and the Bureau of Health Policy, Planning and Access to Care are housed within the Michigan Department of Community Health.

If you have any questions regarding EMS personnel licensing or the EMS Coordination Committee, please contact the EMS and Trauma Systems Section as indicated below:

Michigan Dept. of Community Health
EMS and Trauma Systems Section
Emergency Medical Services Personnel
P.O. Box 30717
Lansing, MI 48909
Telephone: (517) 241-0179
E-Mail Address: ljnsnide@michigan.gov

Please note EMS personnel licensing forms, information, license verification, access to licensure renewal, etc., will

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CONTACTING BHP

By Mail:

Bureau of Health Professions
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909-8170

By Phone:

(517) 335-0918
(517) 241-9427 (License Verification)

Website:

www.michigan.gov/healthlicense

HealthLink is a biannual publication of the Michigan Department of Community Health – Bureau of Health Professions. Statements and opinions appearing in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Bureau of Health Professions.

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Reader's comments are invited. Please e-mail comments and suggestions to the editor at: rrgarza@michigan.gov or write to: HealthLink Editor, BHP, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

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continue to be available on the Bureau of Health Professions' website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense.

■ Health Professional Licensing Boards — Their Function and Current Board Chairpersons

The health professional licensing boards play a critical role in the licensing and regulation of health professionals who hold a license or registration issued by the State of Michigan.

The authority for the health professional licensing boards can be found in the Occupational Regulation Sections of the Michigan Public Health Code. Each licensing board is comprised of both public and professional members who are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The number of members who serve on each board is governed by statute.

The licensing boards meet on a regular basis in order to conduct board business and can establish committees to consider issues and review matters that may require the action of the full board. Each board has the authority to set educational and examination standards for entry into the profession, to regulate and impose sanctions against an individual's license or registration, to reinstate licenses or registrations that have been suspended or revoked, and to reclassify limited licenses or registrations.

Each board has a disciplinary subcommittee (DSC) that is statutorily established. The DSC is responsible for reviewing regulatory matters and imposing discipline on behalf of the full board and has independent authority to impose discipline.

The members of each licensing board elect a chairperson who serves a 1-year term. The chairperson is responsible for presiding over board meetings along with many other important duties. For example, under Section 333.16231(2) of

the Public Health Code, it is the department's responsibility to initially review all allegations filed against licensed or registered health professionals. However, if department staff concludes there is a reasonable basis to believe a violation of the Public Health Code has occurred, it is then the chairperson's responsibility or their designee to formally authorize the department to conduct an investigation. Another example can be found under Section 333.16233(5) of the Public Health Code. It is the department's responsibility to consult with the chairperson prior to the department issuing a summary suspension against a health professional's license or registration except for felonies or drug-related convictions.

Current chairpersons for the health professional licensing boards are listed below:

- Chiropractor: Timothy J. Spencer, D.C.
- Counseling: Lawrence Anthony Pfaff, Ed.D., L.P.C.
- Dentistry: Charles L. Marinelli, D.D.S.

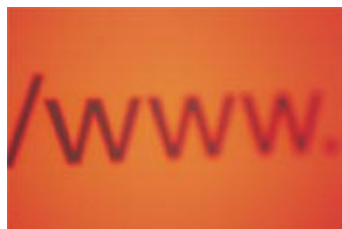
- Marriage and Family Therapy: Joseph Horak, Ph.D.
- Medicine: James D. Grant, M.D.
- Nursing: Jonnie M. Hamilton, R.N., N.P.
- Nursing Home Administrators: Sara J. Schaden, N.H.A.
- Occupational Therapy: Catherine Heck Edwards, O.T.R.
- Optometry: Roger R. Seelye, O.D.
- Osteopathic Medicine: Frank D. Winters, D.O.
- Pharmacy: Roberta M. Armstrong, R.Ph.
- Physical Therapy: David W. Perry, P.T., M.S.
- Physician's Assistants Task Force: Lori Oswald, P.A.
- Podiatric Medicine and Surgery: Thomas L. Abraham, D.P.M.
- Psychology: Jack Haynes, Ph.D.
- Social Work: David L. Neal, C.S.W.
- Veterinary Medicine: Patricia O'Handley, D.V.M.

WHAT'S NEW

Application Packets Can Now Be Downloaded from the Bureau of Health Professions' Website

We are pleased to announce application packets for each of the professions we regulate can now be downloaded from our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense. We hope you will find this to be a convenient way to access the form or forms you need when you need them! If you experience any difficulty while downloading, you can still request that

an application packet be mailed to you by either e-mailing us at bhpinfo@michigan.gov or calling us at (517) 335-0918. If you contact us via e-mail or telephone, please be sure to specify the specific profession and type of application packet you are requesting, e.g., licensure by exam, licensure by endorsement, etc.



HealthLink

■ New Licensure Requirements for Audiologists

Effective May 7, 2004, Public Act 97 of 2004 provides for the licensure of audiologists in the State of Michigan. A health care professional that is engaged in the practice of audiology and uses any of the following titles must be licensed in accordance with the new law:

- Audiologist
- Audiometrist
- Clinical Audiologist
- Educational Audiologist
- Hearing Therapist
- Hearing Aid Audiologist
- Industrial Audiologist

License fees will be \$150.00 per year plus a \$120.00 processing fee.

Additional information regarding the licensure of audiologists can be found on our website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense. We are also creating a list of people who are interested in information when it becomes available. You can either e-mail us at bhpinfo@michigan.gov or call our main line at (517) 335-0918 and leave your name and address in the applications mailbox.

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1. An individual in a course of study leading to a degree in social work and participating in an internship or field placement supervised by a licensed master's social worker.

2. A non-licensed or non-registered individual who donates their services, other than psychotherapy services, to a charitable nonprofit organization as long as the individual does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work.

3. Ordained cleric or other religious practitioner if activities are incidental to his/her religious duties performed under the auspices of a church, denomination, religious association or sect that has tax-exempt status as long as the individual does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work.

4. Certified, licensed or otherwise regulated member of any other profession authorized to practice by law as long as the individual does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work.

5. Participant in self-help, peer counseling or support services program provided by either a charitable or labor

organization exempt from taxation as long as the individual does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work. This does not exempt employees of the organizations who are required to possess a license or registration to practice.

6. An individual whose duties include some or all of the duties described as bachelor level social work if he or she is trained and does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work.

7. A person who holds a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree in social work from an accredited college or university can use a title including "social work" as long as the individual does not hold himself/herself out to the public as licensed or registered in the field of social work.

A social work technician will now be known as a social service technician and will continue to be issued a registration versus a license. The renewal cycle will change from a 2-year cycle to a 3-year cycle. There are no continuing education requirements for social service technicians under this new law.